



In Tune ^{with the}

HUNTERDON Harmonizers



Hunterdon Chapter (Flemington, NJ), Northern Division, Mid-Atlantic District

Meetings are held Tuesdays at the United Methodist Church, 116 Main Street (corner of Main and Maple) in Flemington at 7:30 p.m.

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BROTHER, CAN YOU SPARE A TICKET TO DISTRICTS?

Once again, the Hunterdon Harmonizers rose up from their depression and captured a slot in the Mid-Atlantic District Chorus Competition, to be held in Wildwood, NJ, on October 3 & 4. After our initial “deer in the headlights” shock from the floodlights, which were almost at eye level, we pulled our singing together and delivered a solid performance of our depression package. Our good practice habits really came to our rescue and we maintained intensity through both songs, finishing with a score of 68.9, which earned us a third place in the contest and the plaudits of the crowd.

The 34 *Harmonizers* who made the trip to Scranton can be proud of their performance, and we look forward to a return engagement in “the electric city.”



PHOTO BY LINDA WILLIAMS

Happy days are here again! the *Hunterdon Harmonizers* are the 2008 Northern Division Plateau AAA Champions!

COACHING SESSIONS AFTER THE CONTEST

The chorus was unanimous in their praise of the new process of getting feedback from the judges. Although in the past, most of the chorus members have “hung around” to hear what the judges had to say, this new venue for getting feedback allows for actual coaching focused on the performance we just completed. We had the benefit of receiving solid input from **Dave Rubin** (Music), **Ken Fisher** (Singing), and **Brian Zink** (Presentation). They were all complimentary and cited a lot of good things we were doing, but the value really comes from identifying what we need to do better.

DAVE: We need to finish words, hit the pickups together (leading tones are being sung with different diphthong timings), and especially work on unit sound.

KEN: We occasionally sang in the 70’s, but we have to work on synch and unit sound. He feels we need to “onion-skin” the pitch a little more.

BRIAN: We lost energy on the end of some phrases (job) – suggest we sneak a breath if necessary to ensure closing support. He loved “tower” and wants more of the same focus and energy – no lunch breaks!





Ron Newsom

Ahh! Wasn't that a great weekend in Scranton? I hope everyone had a great time. My appreciation to **Rich K. and Graham** for handling the hotel, logistics, and tickets (great seats!). Big thanks to all those that made the weekend delightful and successful.

Congratulations to *Untamed*, *Voice Odyssey*, and *Chordhouse Steps* for their participation and excellent results in the Quartet Contest held on Friday evening. It is great to have so much talent in our chapter. For the new guys, let's start getting ready for the next competition by singing with or in a quartet. It is both fun and rewarding, and it also helps the chorus improve their sound. Singing in a quartet requires that you listen more for balance and really know your music.

As I said before, thank you to the chorus for a great performance. We made it to District which was part of our goal. The other part was to do well and endeavor to improve. I think we gave a great performance. We got our message across. Thanks Vida, for your help.

It was disappointing that some of you decided to leave early and missed performing at the Jamboree. It went well, but it could have been much better if you had been there. Guys, our job is not over until we fulfill our total commitment which was to win our Plateau and sing in the Jamboree. I hope that this does not happen in the future. The Jamboree was over early which would have given you plenty of opportunity to drive home if you were not staying.

It sounds like we will be going back to Scranton next year. We are now better prepared for area and can plan a few other things, like a breakfast, hospitality, and a picnic at Charlie's. It is our hope that more of the wives will be able to come. It really is enjoyable.

Now we move on to two new songs and our performance package for the District Convention in Wildwood. I think **Don** and the Music Team have selected a great package for us. All they ask us to do is learn it quickly, sing with quality, put your performance face on, have fun, and give it the best you can. Sounds doable to me. That is why we need to get to practice by 7:30 p.m. and stay until 10:30 p.m. Many of you are doing that and it is very much appreciated. Hopefully, all of us will soon be on that program.

Now that spring has come and summer activities have started, let's not forget that we still have rehearsals every

Tuesday night. We had a sparse group on Tuesday. Many of us will have plans during the summer and will be missing once in awhile. If you are available, please come to as many rehearsals as you can. That way we will be able to learn the new material more quickly, and be more prepared to sing well at our upcoming events, which include our performances at the Deer Path Concert in June, Heath Village, the Somerset Patriots baseball game, the Flemington Craft Fair, to name just a few.

Our Membership Committee is working hard to recruit new members. Twenty new members is our goal. All of us have a responsibility to recruit at least one new member. Have you responded to the call yet?

FIVE FIRST-TIME BARBERSHOPPER CONVENTION PERFORMERS



Newbies no more! Left to right, **Steve Sawin, Christian Hunter, Dan Hunter, Greg Robinson, and Matt Matthey**, have now performed with the *Harmonizers* at a Barbershop Convention. We all know what a thrill it is, and it's great to be able to share the sweat and the satisfaction with these new members.

The *Harmonizers* also made themselves heard in the Quartet Contest. *Untamed* had an excellent performance and finished with a 66.7 score, an almost certain ticket to Districts. *Voice Odyssey* put in a solid performance and gained a 60.3 score. *Chordhouse Steps* finished with a 59.7. Thankfully, the Presentation judge (from Boston) took the Super Bowl parody ("New England's done, they're 18-1") in stride. It is commendable that 25% of the Northern Division quartet contestants came from the *Hunterdon Harmonizers*... and we can do better next year! It's great to be a barbershopper, especially in a quartet in Hunterdon County!

BOARD

RIFES

Notes from the April Board of Directors meeting. The meeting of the Hunterdon Harmonizers Board of Directors was held at 91 Main St. in Flemington NJ. **R. Newsom, T. Weber, M. Bentley, G. Cleaves, L. Roth, A. Cole, J. Siverly, G. Schwerdt, R. Williams, R. Todd,** were in attendance. **REMINDER:** All members are welcome to attend scheduled Board meetings.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Ron Newsom provided Kathryn Budde with a summary of donations received on behalf of Bruce Budde to the Hunterdon Harmonizers Angel Fund.
- Rich Cornelison sent a request to Dianne Schottman, Borough Clerk, Flemington for a HH Craft fair banner to be displayed across Main Street to publicize the event.
- Ron Todd requested the HH Board to consider providing a barbershop performance for the annual Kalmia Club Garden Tour in Lambertville on June 14, 2008
- Pat Cerillo submitted a proposed budget for the 2008 Holiday show and requested HH Board advice on the performance goals for the Show.

REPORTS

Treasurer (George Schwerdt) reported that March showed a positive cash flow. George also provided a narrative for discussion. Report approved.

Membership (Jim Siverly) requested Board approval of Dan Hunter and George Rodney who have passed their auditions. Jim Siverly will follow up to obtain the member applications for formal approval of their membership. The report also proposed a new venue for member recruitment by having quartets perform at the Flemington Main Street Cruise Night car events and the Wednesday Movie Night. The concept was approved, but further information is needed before Board commitment. Report approved.

Music and Performance (Mark Bentley): Plans for upcoming music introductions (Director's Lament and Rain Medley) were reviewed, as was the status of the learning CD's. The report noted the duties of the Music Librarian will need to track distribution of music within copyright laws.

Program (Rusty Williams): Plans for the Somerset Patriot's baseball game were reviewed, and quartet appearances were requested for the two meetings immediately prior to the Division Contest. Report approved.

Development (Ron Todd): The Development Team has completed FY08 Interim Report, and it was submitted on 3/28/08. Report approved

Chorus Manager, Marketing & Public Relations (Open Position), and Member at Large: No reports submitted.

2008 PERFORMANCES

Approved at previous Board sessions

- Division Contest 5/2&3 – Rich Kacvinski & Graham Cleaves coordinators
- Deer Path Concert 6/26 – Coordinator-TBD

- Heath Village 7/20 – Coordinator-TBD
- Somerset Patriots 7/29 – Rusty Williams coordinator
- Family Picnic 8/24 – Rusty Williams and Rich Kacvinski coordinators
- Main Street Craft Fair 9/20&21 – Rich Cornelison and Tony Weber coordinators

Future events for Board consideration

- Memorial Day Parade 5/26 (approved)
- Hunterdon County Fair 8/23
- District Contest at Wildwood 10/3-4 (approved)
- Holiday Show 12/6 (approved)
- Lights of Love 12/10
- Holiday Caroling

OLD BUSINESS

The move to the new meeting facility has been completed. A manager is needed to organize the storage at the church and monitor how HH uses the church.

The Barbershop Harmony Society and American Red Cross will not be collaborating for a blood drive on May 10 2008. . HH participation in this venue has been cancelled.

Holiday Show Status (Pat Cerillo): Pat provided a letter with a proposed budget for our 2008 Christmas show. The Board discussed options of providing a show with a mix of Broadway-style and barbershop, or an all-barbershop performance. The Board revisited the prior show proposals: a musical "Homes for the Holidays- Around the World", and a barbershop "Quest for the Holly Grail" including quartets, knights, and ensembles. After considerable discussion, it was moved that the show should contain a 45 minute THEME act followed by an act of Guest and Chorus performances for a total show time of 1 hour and 45 minutes. A major "Spamalot" performance of the Holly Grail should be planned for 2009 to allow the time to effectively put together this major project. The motion carried with one dissenting vote. The Board decision will be forwarded to Pat Cerillo by Ron Newsom.

NEW BUSINESS

Quartet Coordinators (Bentley/Kunkel) noted that there were 3 reported quartet performances: *Untamed* (1) and *Life Renewed* (2).

To supplement the present Grant Process (State and County) the Board suggests we investigate an HH concert or other performance. The Development Team is asked to pursue this idea for future consideration.

The purchase of HH letterhead and Envelopes was authorized by the Board.

The proposal by Ron Todd for a Garden Tour Performance by an ensemble of 12-15 singers was conceptually approved by the Board for a 30 minute show. Ron Todd will follow up and canvas HH members for participation.

Tony Weber noted that he may not attend the May 19 meeting due to a business trip, and will not attend the June 16, meeting because he'll be on vacation.

—Tony Weber

LIFE RENEWED SINGS FOR HUNTERDON COUNTY SENIORS

by Ron Newsom



Life Renewed (Ed Kunkel, Al Byer, Charlie Mohr, and Ron Newsom), made its debut at a lunch for the Senior Citizens of Hunterdon County. The quartet opened up with the “National Anthem” and sang several songs, including “Cabaret,” “Lion Sleeps Tonight,” “Dream,” and several Polecat favorites. Our reward was lunch, which was delicious. Several people requested that we sing at their table since the sound system was not working that well. They were delighted and it was a barrel of fun for us.

Life Renewed is a senior quartet that sings at nursing homes, for vets, and at small parties and special events. Many of these take place during the day and can’t be covered by the working class. We have done big events and small events. We take pleasure in making people happy with our music. It is fun for us and helps us to be better chorus members. Our goal is not to win a competition. It is to serve our audience with entertaining music. We do not get the recognition that some of the competing quartets get, but we don’t need it. The smile on a tired face, the glow in hopeful eyes, the laugh of a joyous child, the thanks from a senior who just enjoys our company, or from a Vet who salutes us with pride and gratitude for caring is all the recognition we need.

Life Renewed will be singing the “National Anthem” and “God Bless America” at the Blue Star Memorial in Whitehouse on May 16 for the Vets and at “A Roaring Twenties Lunch” event for seniors on May 21, with a sing-along with Al.

Quartet singing is fun. We can never have too many quartets. They are great for entertaining and for recruiting new members. So, come on out and join a quartet near you.



MEMBERS MAKE THE MUSIC

That certainly sounds obvious.

What we may overlook is that MORE members make BETTER music.

Just for fun, let’s compare scores at the Northern Division contest between 2007 and 2008.

- Ten choruses were judged in both years.
- Seven of them got lower scores in 2008 than 2007.
- Three of them got higher scores. Wonder why? All three of these choruses had more men on stage in 2008 than they did in 2007.

The biggest improvement was by the *Morris Music Men*, who also had the biggest gain in members. If this sounds like a commercial for building our membership, it is. We have been scoring at that 70 plateau for a while now with our 30–35 men on stage. Would you like to guess what we would score if we had 45–50? Let’s find out!

CHORDHOUSE STEPS SINGS FOR SOMERSET VALLEY ORCHESTRA

On April 27, *Chordhouse Steps* (George Schwerdt, Joe DiPaola, Rusty Williams, and Don Reckenbeil) appeared as guests at the Somerset Valley Orchestra presentation of “A Celebration of Nature: Notes from Mother Earth.” After listening to some orchestral pieces, the audience was treated to a selection of four-part a cappella songs designed for equal opportunity entertainment.

In the program, the *Chordhouse Steps* are billed as a Supreme Barbershop Quartet. The following served as their bio:

WHEREAS the Chordhouse Steps quartet was built two years ago and

WHEREAS its members bring over 90 years of collective Barbershop experience to the stage and

WHEREAS all are members of the Hunterdon Harmonizers Chorus, which meets in Floemington each Tuesday night and

WHEREAS Don directs the chorus with Rusty and George assisting and Joe, a newcomer to barbershop, has much previous experience in singing and playing in a band, therefore

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL PRESENT that the group’s 4-part style remains true to the barbershop form (though the group has been known to take some “liberty” with the lyrics) and that

TRUTH BE TOLD, this is a cappella harmony JUSTICE good as it gets HONOR off stage.

Program ad by George Schwerdt, tenor.



Christian Hunter

MEMBERSHIP: VIEWS FROM A NEWBIE

Having performed in numerous high school choral groups, including an impromptu barbershop quartet (with a heavy doo-wop bent), I regretted that I hadn't pursued joining a chorus since I graduated in 1990. After relocating to Flemington in 2002, I came across ads for the *Hunterdon Harmonizers* in the papers on occasion. For some reason it never connected in my mind that the type of group I had been thinking of was literally five minutes down the road. Last fall, my wife was chatting with her friend, Heidi, when, for some strange reason, Heidi mentioned that her husband, **Tim Snyder**, was in a barbershop chorus. Knowing that singing was a part of my life that had been missing for over 15 years, my wife suggested I talk to Tim to get the low-down. He urged and prodded me to come to the Flemington Craft Fair, since the *Harmonizers* would be performing. Since it was an exceptionally beautiful day, I talked the family into heading down to Main Street to enjoy the Fair and catch the show. Standing there, watching the chorus for the first time, was an awesome experience. I had never before seen a full barbershop chorus perform and was amazed that you could get "ring" from thirty or so guys. The emotion portrayed in "Brother" and "Nobody" was incredible, and I stood there thinking, "no way could I do that." The barbershoppers seemed way out of my league. After the set wrapped up, Tim asked if I'd like to meet some of the guys. What a set-up! In a matter of seconds I was drawn into a tag with **Don, Rusty, George, Pat**, and others. Hmmmm, maybe I could actually do this?!

Thus, the beginning of what I hope will be a lifelong hobby. I am a prime example of the simplest form of recruiting—word of mouth. If it weren't for Tim's wife's mention of the *Harmonizers* in passing, I'd still be longing for an outlet to satisfy my desire to sing. The lesson from this experience is that I mention our chorus to friends and colleagues in the hope that they, too, will take that first step to sing with us. At first I was reluctant, I mean is it "cool" to be in a barbershop chorus? No doubt. Spreading the word is the easiest and perhaps most effective method for recruiting new members. The vast majority of new recruits have been solicited by members. So shout from the mountaintops that you are a barbershopper and maybe, like me, your friends and colleagues will come out of the woodwork on a Tuesday night, and get hooked on harmony.

The Membership Committee is looking for some new ideas on recruiting in order to reach our goal of "20 new members in 2008." The pipeline is starting to gather steam but we need your help to fill the risers. Over the coming weeks I will be reaching out to many of you to solicit some new approaches. Examples we have in the works include:

having a chorus member tag along with quartets when they perform to chat with prospects and hand out materials; assembling a very large quartet (VLQ) to sing in public to raise awareness; and reaching out to youth and college choruses to invite young men (and/or the men in their family) to join us for the summer. All of this starts with you. Remember, membership is core to the chorus!

COLLEGE (?) QUARTET (!) GETS READY TO COMPETE (+)



From left to right, Landon Peer, Max Sabor, Dan Mirota, and Mike Martin.

On May 20, the *Hunterdon Harmonizers* were entertained by *Jus' Duet* as they showed us how good the coming generation of singers can be. They are entered in the Western Division Contest and will be singing third on May 30 in Lancaster, PA. They will be competing as a college quartet, for which they are "Jus' Eligible," with the three high-schoolers being jus' old enough, and old man Dan being jus' young enough to meet the college quartet requirements. The *Harmonizers* loved them, and they are sure to be a big hit in Lancaster. Way to sing, guys!



Mark Bentley

WHAT A PERFORMANCE!

Congratulations to the *Hunterdon Harmonizers* for an outstanding PERFORMANCE in Scranton at the Northern Division Contest! The judges gave us excellent scores for Presentation, and more importantly, the audience loved our two songs. I even had one woman tell me that our PERFORMANCE reminded her of the *Alexandria Harmonizers* (District Chorus Champs)!

You're probably wondering why the emphasis on PERFORMANCE in this article. It's because PERFORMANCE is how we communicate with our audience, and pleasing our audience is our most important

(continued on next page)

goal. That is why we work so hard in rehearsals each Tuesday night striving to improve our singing skills, struggling to get all those choreo moves, concentrating on our unit sound—because we're going to take it all out of the rehearsal hall and PERFORM on stage for our audience. Our first full PERFORMANCE will be at Deer Path Park on June 26th, where we will stage a 2-hour show outside (weather permitting).

What do we do in a PERFORMANCE? Briefly, we tell stories using poetry set to music and enhanced with visual cues. But for the listener, this is close to sensory overload, because words and music affect different areas of the brain, and then we hit them with the visual effects. Anything that interrupts this experience can be distracting to the listener.

What can distract someone? Basically anything that breaks the flow of the poetry, the music, or the visual picture. It could be a slurred word, or an out-of-tune chord, or a late move—the listener heard or saw something that caused him to focus on that event and so lost the focus on the story.

So what can we do to minimize those moments for the audience?

- Know the story—know the words, know the music, know the emotion keys (dynamics, faces, physical moves).
- Remember, once you're on stage you are PERFORMING, even if we're just getting everyone in place.
- Keep smiling and think about the next story you're going to PERFORM.
- After we finish a song you're still PERFORMING. This is not the time to discuss how well we did that song.
- Keep smiling and think about the next story you're going to PERFORM.
- When you're on stage and a quartet is singing let your face and body show how much you're enjoying their PERFORMANCE, but don't applaud at the end.
- Keep smiling and think about the next story you're going to PERFORM.
- If a song PERFORMANCE is not going well let the audience figure it out—don't let it show on your face or in your body language. As far as you're concerned, it went perfectly.
- Keep smiling and think about the next story you're going to PERFORM.

When the show is over and we're offstage, take a moment to savor the experience, because there is nothing quite like the elation of knowing that you've given so much pleasure to so many people, and you've done it while PERFORMING barbershop! What a joy!

It's GREAT to be a barbershopper, especially in Hunterdon County!

MORE PICS FROM CONTEST



PHOTOS BY LINDA WILLIAMS

♪ HUNTERDON HARMONIZER 2008 SCHEDULE ♪

make sure to confirm your commitment to performances (sign-up sheets)

Date	Event	Location	Time
June 12-15	Harmony College East	Salisbury, MD	info at www.MidAtlanticDistrict.com
June 14	Kalmia Club Garden Tour	Lambertville	morning
June 26	Deer Path Concert	Deer Path Park, Flemington	6 p.m.
July 20	Heath Village	Hackettstown, NJ	TBD
July 29	Patriots Barbershop Fest	Somerset, NJ	6 p.m.
October 3-4	District Convention	Wildwood	info at www.MidAtlanticDistrict.com



Happy Birthday!

June 4	Art Cole
June 22	Jim Maitland
June 30	Bob Burnet

MANUSCRIPT DEADLINE FOR NEXT BULLETIN!



Manuscripts must be in the editor's hands on **June 20th** for publication in the next issue of "In Tune with the Hunterdon Harmonizers" bulletin. E-mail articles to lindaw23@embarqmail.com or send them to Linda Williams, 24 Toad Lane, Ringoes, NJ 08551.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MUSIC

Assistant Directors
Max Sabor
George Schwerdt
Rusty Williams

Vocal Coach
Alden Fulcomer

Choreographer
Vida Allworthy

Section Leader, Tenor
George Schwerdt

Section Leader, Lead
Pat Cerillo
Joe DiPaolo (Assistant)

Section Leader, Baritone
Don Reckenbeil

Section Leader, Bass
Rusty Williams
Mike Fordice (Assistant)

Electronic Equipment & Learning Tapes
Mike Fordice

Music Librarian
Ron Todd

Chorus Contact
Ron Newsom

Quartet Contact
Open

SHOWS AND PERFORMANCES

Craft Show
Richard Cornelison
Tony Weber

District Convention
Open

Holiday Show
Pat Cerillo

Picnic
Richard Kacvinski
Rusty Williams

Singing Valentines
Graham Cleaves

Church Choir Relief (summer)
Jack Gardner

Public Relations
Open

CHORUS WELFARE

Badges/ Health & Welfare
Richard Cornelison

Uniforms
Lou Barile

Housing
Art Cole, Jr.

CHORUS MERCHANDISE

CDs
Richard Kacvinski
Ron Roth

Cups, etc.
Dennis McKeivitt

PROGRAMS

Refreshments
Graham Cleaves

ADA Coordinator
Ron Todd

FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND GRANTS

Rich Cornelison
Rich Kacvinski
Ron Todd

AUXILIARY

Co-Chairpersons
Sharon Cole
Carol McKeivitt

Treasurer
Linda Kacvinski

Corresponding Secretary
Alice Rigas

It's Great to be a Barbershopper in Hunterdon County!



Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, through funds administered by the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission.

OUR MISSION

The *Harmonizers'* vision is

- ♫ To be recognized as a quality musical organization performing music in the four-part *a capella* style known as barbershop.
- ♫ Sharing our love of singing well with men of all ages who have similar interests.

The *Harmonizers* are dedicated to

- ♫ Promoting and preserving this truly American art form known as barbershop harmony.
- ♫ Bringing our music and love of music to a broad-based audience.
- ♫ Providing education and instructional experiences in our craft to men of all ages.
- ♫ Inspiring our audiences with memorable performances.



Barbershop Chorus

c/o Linda Williams, Editor
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